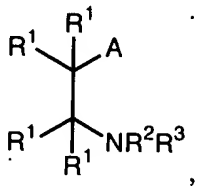
In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following claims:

68. (new) A method of inhibiting epileptogenesis, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a substituted β-alanine compound of the formula



, wherein

- A is an anionic group at physiological pH, or a carboxylate or a prodrug form thereof;
- each R^1 is independently hydrogen or alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, amino, hydroxy, cyano, halogen, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyloxy, aryloxycarbonyloxy, or aminocarbonyl; and
- R^2 and R^3 are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, or aryloxycarbonyl; or R^2 and R^3, taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, form an unsubstituted or substituted heterocycle having from 3 to 7 atoms in the heterocyclic ring;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, such that epileptogenesis is inhibited.

69. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 68 wherein

- A is a carboxylate or a prodrug form thereof;
- each R^1 is independently hydrogen or an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, or aryloxy group; and

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- R^2 and R^3 are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, or alkylcarbonyl; or R^2 and R^3, taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, form an unsubstituted or substituted heterocycle having from 3 to 7 atoms in the heterocyclic ring.

70. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said prodrug is a carboxylate ester.

71. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 70 wherein said carboxylate ester is a methyl, ethyl, or phenyl ester.

¶17 72. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said R^1 alkyl or alkyloxy group has a straight or branched chain alkyl group having 20 or fewer carbon atoms in the backbone.

73. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 72 wherein said alkyl group is substituted.

74. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 73 wherein said alkyl group is substituted with an aryl group.

75. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said R^1 cycloalkyl group has 4 to 10 carbon atoms in the ring structure.

76. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 75 wherein said cycloalkyl group is substituted.

77. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 76 wherein the substituent on said cycloalkyl group is a *tert*-butyl or phenyl group.

78. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said aryl or said aryloxy group is substituted.

79. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 74 wherein said aryl group is substituted.

80. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 78 wherein the substituent on said aryl or aryloxy group is a halogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, alkoxyl,

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amino, aryloxy, alkyl amino, dialkylamino, arylamino, alkylcarbonylamino, or an aromatic moiety.

81. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 79 wherein the substituent on said aryl group is a halogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, alkoxyl, amino, aryloxy, alkyl amino, dialkylamino, arylamino, alkylcarbonylamino, or an aromatic moiety.

82. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 80 wherein said aromatic moiety is a phenyl, naphthyl, quinolyl, or indolyl group.

83. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 81 wherein said aromatic moiety is a phenyl, naphthyl, quinolyl, or indolyl group.

84. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said R^2 alkyl group or said R^3 alkyl group is substituted.

85. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said R^2 alkylcarbonyl group or said R^3 alkylcarbonyl group is CH_3CO.

86. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said R^2 alkyl or alkyloxy group or said R^3 alkyl or alkyloxy group has a straight or branched chain alkyl group having 20 or fewer carbon atoms in the backbone.

87. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 86 wherein said alkyl group is substituted.

88. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 87 wherein said alkyl group is substituted with an aryl group.

89. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 84 wherein said substituted alkyl group is an aralkyl group.

90. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is an α-substituted β-alanine.

91. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 90 wherein R^1 is an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, or aryloxy group.

92. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is a β-substituted β-alanine.

93. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 92 wherein R^1 is an alkyl, cycloalkyl, or aryl group.

94. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is an α, α- disubstituted β-alanine.

95. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 94 wherein each R^1 is independently an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, or aryloxy group.

96. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is an α, β-disubstituted β-alanine.

97. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 96 wherein the α R^1 is an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, or aryloxy group; and the β R^1 is an alkyl, cycloalkyl, or aryl group.

98. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is a β, β-disubstituted β-alanine.

99. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 98 wherein each β R^1 is independently an alkyl, cycloalkyl, or aryl group.

100. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is a α, β, α-trisubstituted β-alanine.

101. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 100 wherein each α R^1 is independently an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, or aryloxy group; and the β R^1 is an alkyl, cycloalkyl, or aryl group.

102. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is an α, β, β-trisubstituted β-alanine.

103. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 102 wherein the α R^1 is an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, or aryloxy group; and each β R^1 is independently an alkyl, cycloalkyl, or aryl group.

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104. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is an α, α, β, β- tetrasubstituted β-alanine.

105. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 104 wherein the α R^1 is an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, or aryloxy group; and each β R^1 is independently an alkyl, cycloalkyl, or aryl group.

106. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said β-alanine compound is N-acetyl-α-cyclohexyl-β-alanine methyl or ethyl ester, N-acetyl-α-cyclododecyl-β-alanine ethyl ester, N-acetyl-α-(4-tert-butylcyclohexyl)-β-alanine methyl ester, or N-acetyl-α-(4-phenylcyclohexyl)-β-alanine methyl ester.

107. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 70 wherein said β-alanine compound is N-acetyl-α-cyclohexyl-β-alanine methyl or ethyl ester, N-acetyl-α-cyclododecyl-β-alanine ethyl ester, N-acetyl-α-(4-tert-butylcyclohexyl)-β-alanine methyl ester, or N-acetyl-α-(4-phenylcyclohexyl)-β-alanine methyl ester.

108. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 85 wherein said β-alanine compound is N-acetyl-α-cyclohexyl-β-alanine methyl or ethyl ester, N-acetyl-α-cyclododecyl-β-alanine ethyl ester, N-acetyl-α-(4-tert-butylcyclohexyl)-β-alanine methyl ester, or N-acetyl-α-(4-phenylcyclohexyl)-β-alanine methyl ester.

109. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 90 wherein said β-alanine compound is N-acetyl-α-cyclohexyl-β-alanine methyl or ethyl ester, N-acetyl-α-cyclododecyl-β-alanine ethyl ester, N-acetyl-α-(4-tert-butylcyclohexyl)-β-alanine methyl ester, or N-acetyl-α-(4-phenylcyclohexyl)-β-alanine methyl ester.

110. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said β-alanine compound is N-acetyl-β-phenyl-β-alanine methyl ester, N-acetyl-β-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-β-alanine methyl ester, N-acetyl-β-phenethyl-β-alanine

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methyl ester, N-acetyl-β-(p-methoxyphenethyl]-β-alanine methyl ester, N-acetyl-β-[2-(4-methylphenyl)ethyl]-β-alanine methyl ester, or N-acetyl-β-[2-(3-methoxy-4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]-β-alanine methyl ester.

111. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 70 wherein said β-alanine compound is N-acetyl-β-phenyl-β-alanine methyl ester, N-acetyl-β-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-β-alanine methyl ester, N-acetyl-β-phenethyl-β-alanine methyl ester, N-acetyl-β-(p-methoxyphenethyl]-β-alanine methyl ester, N-acetyl-β-[2-(4-methylphenyl)ethyl]-β-alanine methyl ester, or N-acetyl-β-[2-(3-methoxy-4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]-β-alanine methyl ester.

112. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 85 wherein said β-alanine compound is N-acetyl-β-phenyl-β-alanine methyl ester, N-acetyl-β-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-β-alanine methyl ester, N-acetyl-β-phenethyl-β-alanine methyl ester, N-acetyl-β-(p-methoxyphenethyl]-β-alanine methyl ester, N-acetyl-β-[2-(4-methylphenyl)ethyl]-β-alanine methyl ester, or N-acetyl-β-[2-(3-methoxy-4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]-β-alanine methyl ester.

113. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 92 wherein said β-alanine compound is N-acetyl-β-phenyl-β-alanine methyl ester, N-acetyl-β-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-β-alanine methyl ester, N-acetyl-β-phenethyl-β-alanine methyl ester, N-acetyl-β-(p-methoxyphenethyl]-β-alanine methyl ester, N-acetyl-β-[2-(4-methylphenyl)ethyl]-β-alanine methyl ester, or N-acetyl-β-[2-(3-methoxy-4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]-β-alanine methyl ester.

114. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said β-alanine compound is α-cyclohexyl-β-alanine

115. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 90 wherein said β-alanine compound is α-cyclohexyl-β-alanine.

116. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said β-alanine compound is β-phenyl-β-alanine or β-phenethyl-β-alanine.

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117. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 92 wherein said β-alanine compound is β-phenyl-β-alanine or β-phenethyl-β-alanine.

118. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said β-alanine compound is $RCH(NH_2)CH_2COOH$ and R is 4-fluorophenyl, 4-phenoxyphenyl, 3-(4-methylphenoxy)phenyl, 3-methyl-4-methoxyphenyl, 3-(3,4-dichlorophenoxy)phenyl, 2-methylphenyl, 3-(4-chlorophenoxy)phenyl, 2,5-dimethyl-4-methoxyphenyl, 4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl, 2-chlorophenyl, 2-fluoro-3-trifluoromethylphenyl, 3-bromo-4-methoxyphenyl, 4-bromophenyl, phenyl, 4-methylphenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 4-acetamidophenyl, 2,5-dimethoxyphenyl, 4-diethylaminophenyl, 3-methylphenyl, 2-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl, 4-phenylphenyl, 3,4-dibenzyloxyphenyl, or 3-[(3-trifluoromethyl)phenyloxy]phenyl.

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119. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 92 wherein said β-alanine compound is $RCH(NH_2)CH_2COOH$ and R is 4-fluorophenyl, 4-phenoxyphenyl, 3-(4-methylphenoxy)phenyl, 3-methyl-4-methoxyphenyl, 3-(3,4-dichlorophenoxy)phenyl, 2-methylphenyl, 3-(4-chlorophenoxy)phenyl, 2,5-dimethyl-4-methoxyphenyl, 4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl, 2-chlorophenyl, 2-fluoro-3-trifluoromethylphenyl, 3-bromo-4-methoxyphenyl, 4-bromophenyl, phenyl, 4-methylphenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 4-acetamidophenyl, 2,5-dimethoxyphenyl, 4-diethylaminophenyl, 3-methylphenyl, 2-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl, 4-phenylphenyl, 3,4-dibenzyloxyphenyl, or 3-[(3-trifluoromethyl)phenyloxy]phenyl.

120. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 82 wherein said phenyl group is substituted.

121. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 83 wherein said phenyl group is substituted.

122. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 120 wherein said phenyl group is substituted with a 4-fluorophenyl, 4-phenoxyphenyl, 3-(4-methylphenoxy)phenyl, 3-methyl-4-methoxyphenyl, 3-(3,4-dichlorophenoxy)phenyl, 2-methylphenyl, 3-(4-chlorophenoxy)phenyl, 2,5-dimethyl-4-methoxyphenyl, 4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl, 2-chlorophenyl, 2-fluoro-

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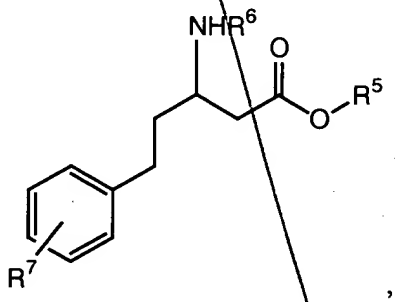
3-trifluoromethylphenyl, 3-bromo-4-methoxyphenyl, 4-bromophenyl, 4-methylphenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 4-acetamidophenyl, 2,5-dimethoxyphenyl, 4-diethylaminophenyl, 3-methylphenyl, 2-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl, 4-phenylphenyl, 3,4-dibenzyloxyphenyl, or a 3-[(3-trifluoromethyl)phenyloxy]phenyl group.

123. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 121 wherein said phenyl group is substituted with a 4-fluorophenyl, 4-phenoxyphenyl, 3-(4-methylphenoxy)phenyl, 3-methyl-4-methoxyphenyl, 3-(3,4-dichlorophenoxy)phenyl, 2-methylphenyl, 3-(4-chlorophenoxy)phenyl, 2,5-dimethyl-4-methoxyphenyl, 4-trifluoromethoxyphenyl, 2-chlorophenyl, 2-fluoro-3-trifluoromethylphenyl, 3-bromo-4-methoxyphenyl, 4-bromophenyl, 4-methylphenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 4-acetamidophenyl, 2,5-dimethoxyphenyl, 4-diethylaminophenyl, 3-methylphenyl, 2-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl, 4-phenylphenyl, 3,4-dibenzyloxyphenyl, or a 3-[(3-trifluoromethyl)phenyloxy]phenyl group.

124. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is



, wherein

- R^5 is CH_3 or H;
- R^6 is Ac or H; and
- R^7 is CH_3O, H, CH_3, NEt, $-OCH_2O-$, or OH.

125. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 74 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is

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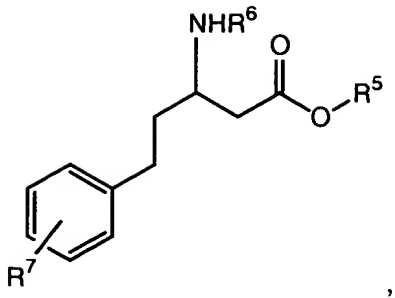
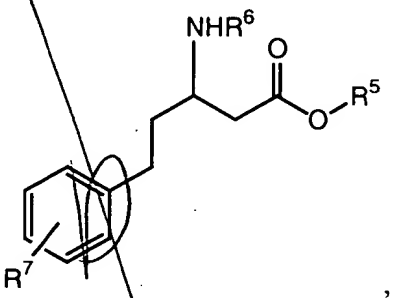


, wherein

- R^5 is CH_3 or H;
- R^6 is Ac or H; and
- R^7 is CH_3O, H, CH_3, NEt, $-OCH_2O-$, or OH.

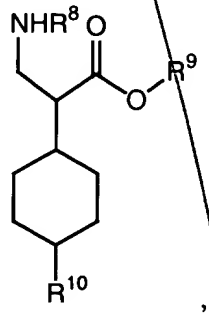
126. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 92 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is



, wherein

- R^5 is CH_3 or H;
- R^6 is Ac or H; and
- R^7 is CH_3O, H, CH_3, NEt, $-OCH_2O-$, or OH.

127. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is



, wherein

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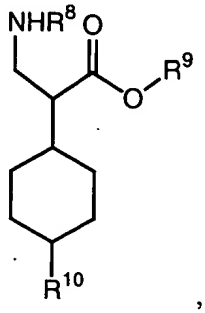
- R^8 is H or Ac;
- R^9 is CH_3 or H; and
- R^{10} is H, Ph, or $C(CH_3)_3$.

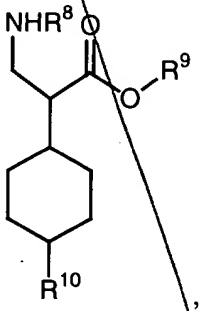
128. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 85 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is



, wherein

- R^8 is H or Ac;
- R^9 is CH_3 or H; and
- R^{10} is H, Ph, or $C(CH_3)_3$.

129. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 90 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is

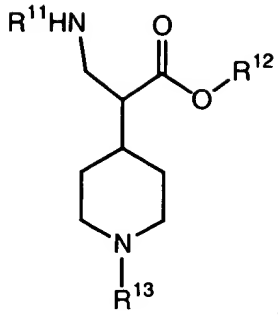


, wherein

- R^8 is H or Ac;
- R^9 is CH_3 or H; and
- R^{10} is H, Ph, or $C(CH_3)_3$.

130. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is

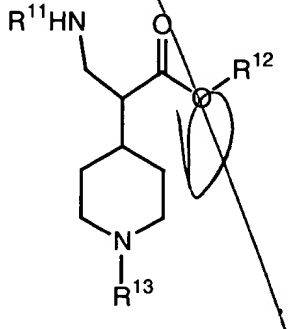
contd. 117



, wherein

- R^{11} is H or Ac;
- R^{12} is CH_3 or H; and
- R^{13} is CO_2Et.

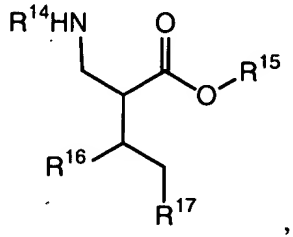
131. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 90 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is



, wherein

- R^{11} is H or Ac;
- R^{12} is CH_3 or H; and
- R^{13} is CO_2Et.

132. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is



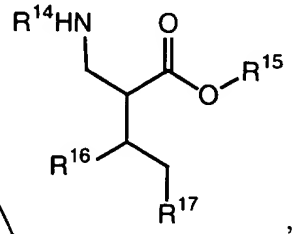
,

- R^{14} is H or Ac;

contd. 117

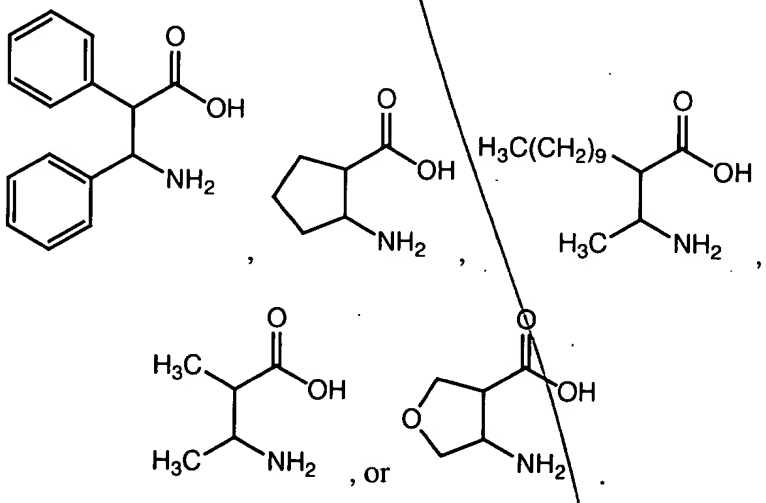
- R^{15} is Et, CH_3 or H; and
- R^{16} and R^{17} are independently H, CH_3, Bu, or Et, or R_3 and R_4 taken together are $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2(CH_2)_3CH_2-$, or-$CH_2(CH_2)_8CH_2-$.

133. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 90 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is



- R^{14} is H or Ac;
- R^{15} is Et, CH_3 or H; and
- R^{16} and R^{17} are independently H, CH_3, Bu, or Et, or R_3 and R_4 taken together are $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2(CH_2)_3CH_2-$, or-$CH_2(CH_2)_8CH_2-$.

134. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is



135. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 96 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is

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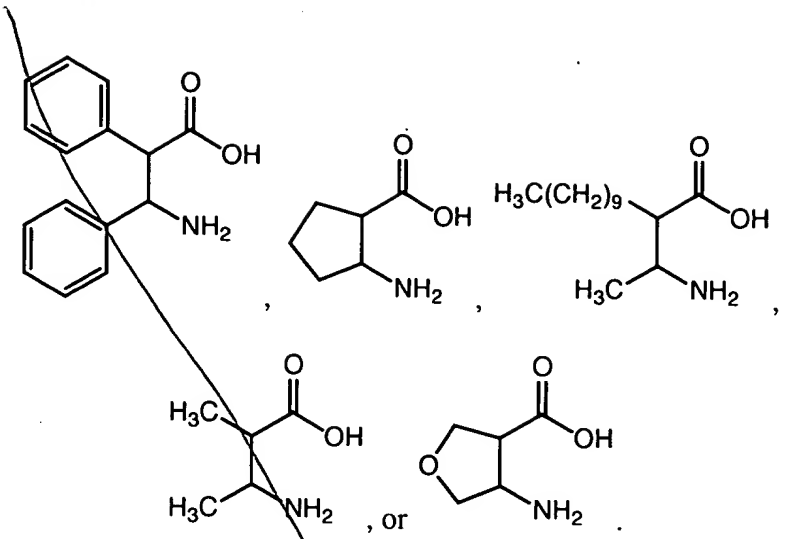
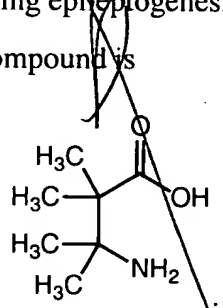
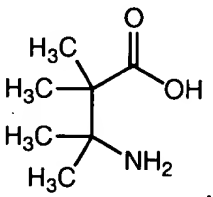


136. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 69 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is



137. (new) The method of inhibiting epileptogenesis according to claim 104 wherein said substituted β-alanine compound is



138. (new) A method for treating a convulsive disorder, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound represented by the formula:

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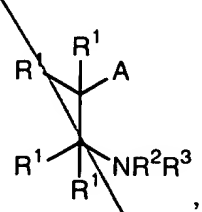

, wherein